

WRITTEN QUESTION P-1094/08
by Carlos José Iturgaiz Angulo (PPE-DE)
to the Commission

Subject: LEADER programmes in the Basque Country

According to certain Basque Country rural development associations, the activities of the LEADER programme are under the control of Mendikoi, a public company dependent on the Basque Government's department of agriculture. The Basque Local Action Group is Mendinet, and comprises the rural development associations, but in practice, they have scarcely any ability to influence the decisions adopted, since they merely attend a board meeting twice a year, at which they only have one of the 19 votes, which means that they carry no weight in the projects in the local government districts (comarcas), over and above running into major obstacles when it comes to funding them. The Basque Country is, moreover, the sole Spanish autonomous community in which there is only one Local Action Group for the entire region, in contravention of the provisions of the FEADER Regulation, which make it obligatory to establish strategies for clearly defined territorial entities smaller than a region.

Would the Commission be prepared to assess whether the Basque Government is failing to comply with the rules on representation laid down by FEADER, by exceeding its remit in the management of the LEADER programme?